GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:689
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
COMPENSATION TO FARMERS EVICTED FROM ARMY LAND IN HYDERABAD
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHRC has asked the Defence Ministry to payRs. 12 lakh as damages to farmers who evicted the Army land in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether 300 army personnel went on rampage and demolished farmers' sheds in Rhthu Bazar;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether NHRC has also asked the Government to amendthe protection of Human Rights and to probe into the human rights violation by armed forces; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Sir, it is true that the NHRC has given directions/recommendations to the Ministry of Defence to pay a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs as the loss to the property of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) & (c): According to the Army Headquarters version of the incident which is at variance with NHRCs findings, vacation of the defence land in question from unauthorised occupiers was carried out by them in a peaceful manner. Hence, no action has been proposed against anybody.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The NHRC have emphasised the need to empower the Commission to inquire more effectively into the violations of human rights by the armed forces. The Government has received the proceedings of NHRC only, recently. The formulation of Government's view-point, in the matter will require consultations with all the concerned authorities.